

To the Committee Secretary,

It is with great sorrow I read that homebirth is to be effectively made illegal in Australia.

Given the proposal to utilise nurses & midwives more for Indigenous communities, the proposal to fine & deregister midwives for practicing at clients' homes is outrageous.

This proposal is putting women's lives at risk, as well as those of their babies if they continue to birth at their homes without adequate medical supervision.

Please, please include homebirth in the medicare reform. Take the strain off the hospitals and return birth to the natural place it's been since humanity began - the home. And do it in a way that gives women a true choice, and comfort of knowledge and support for their partners.

Include homebirth in this reform - make it legal, make it supported and don't criminalise what is a natural process. If you want precedent, look to the United Kingdom for a model, or to the European Community.

Thankyou.

Karyn Peverill